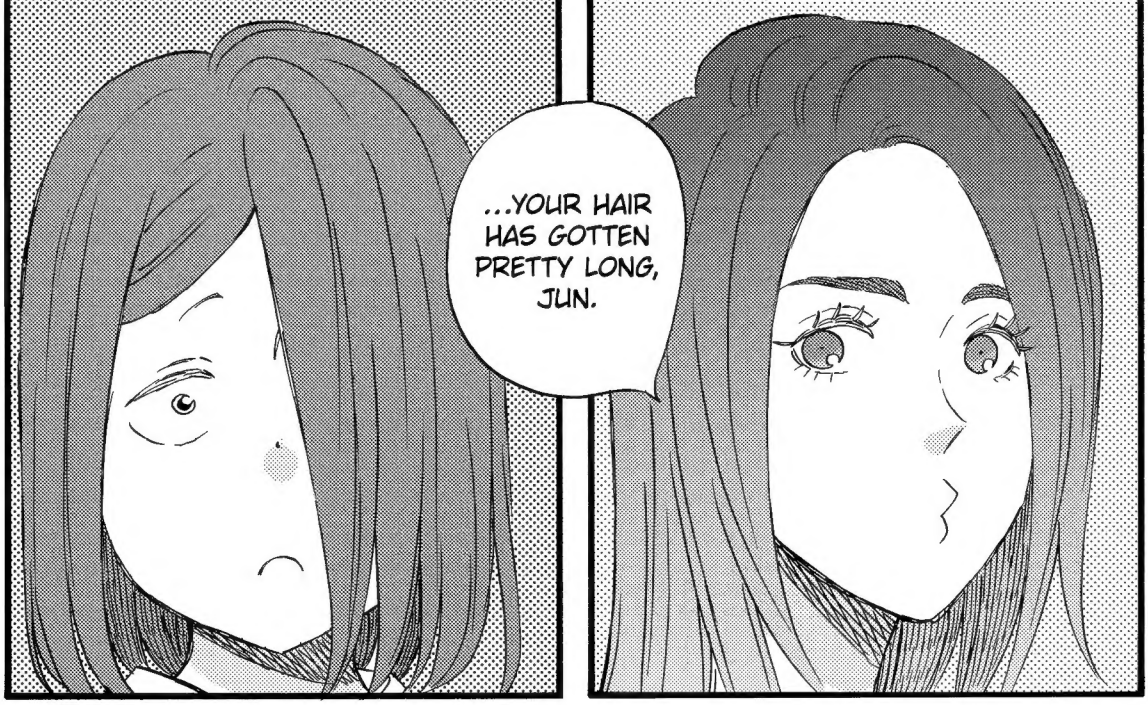
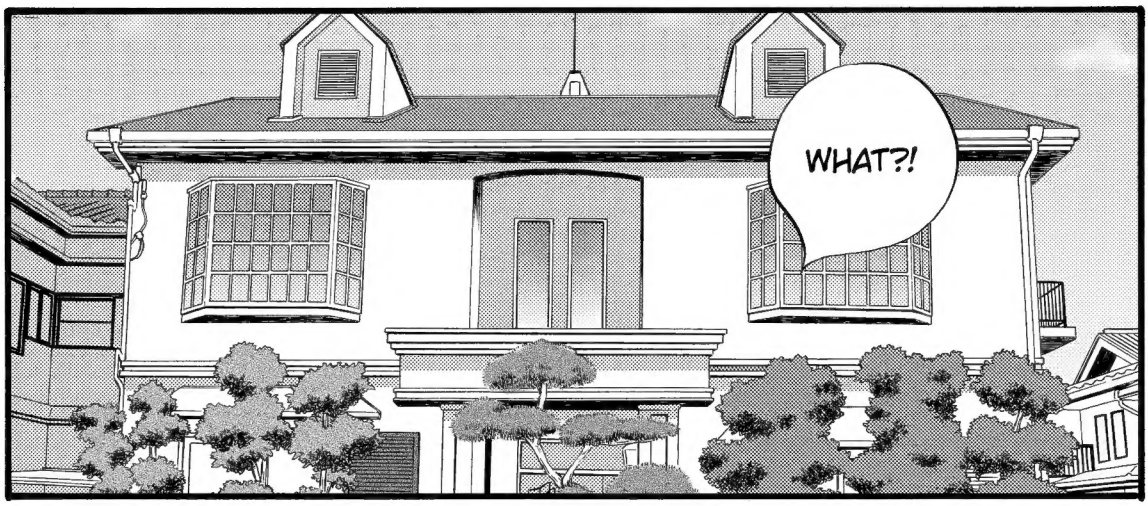

...YOUR HAIR HAS GOTTEN PRETTY LONG, JUN.

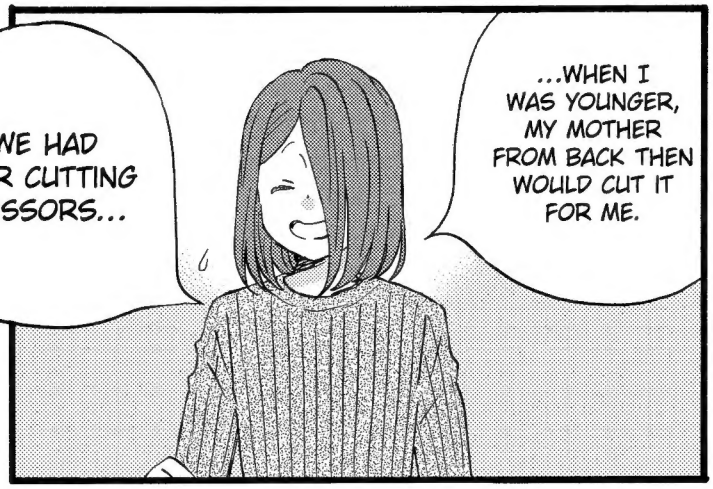

WHAT?!

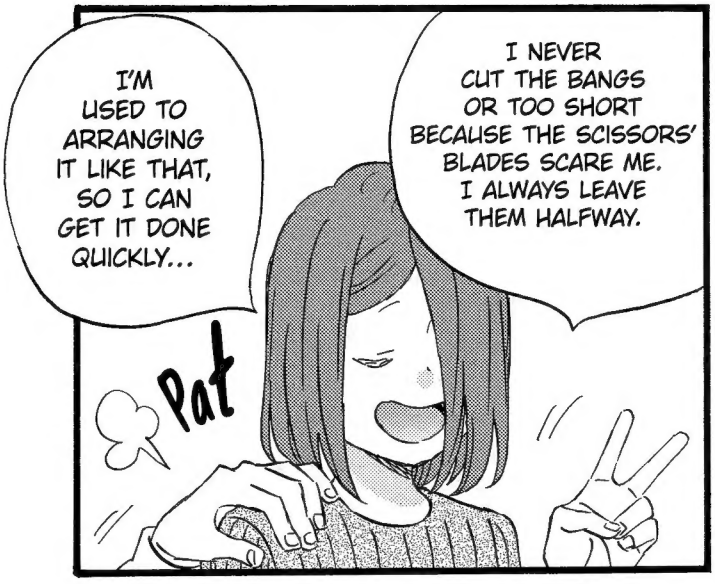
...HM?
I'LL CUT IT BEFORE WE GO VISIT GRANDMA.
YEAH.
I GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR A HAIRCUT.

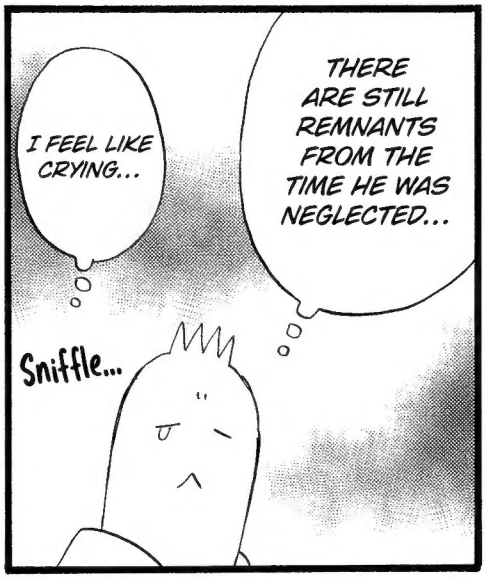
WHAAAT?! YOU CUT YOUR OWN HAIR?!!

HUH?
HUH?!

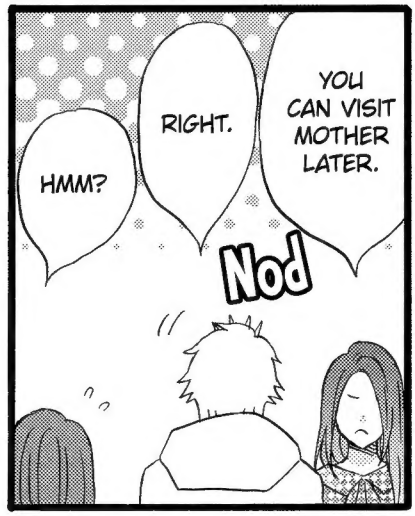
SO, AFTER HIS MOTHER ABANDONED HIM, HE BEGAN TO CUT HIS OWN HAIR...


WE HAD HAIR CUTTING SCISSORS...
...WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, MY MOTHER FROM BACK THEN WOULD CUT IT FOR ME.

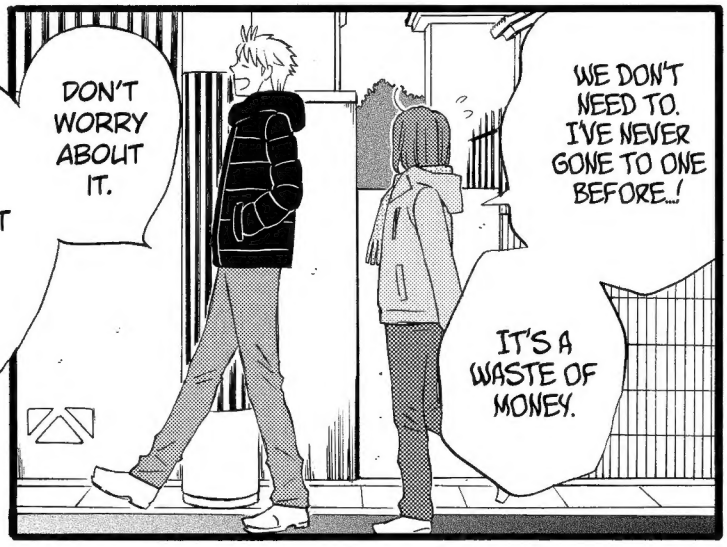

I'M USED TO ARRANGING IT LIKE THAT, SO I CAN GET IT DONE QUICKLY...
I NEVER CUT THE BANGS OR TOO SHORT BECAUSE THE SCISSORS' BLADES SCARE ME. I ALWAYS LEAVE THEM HALFWAY.
Pat

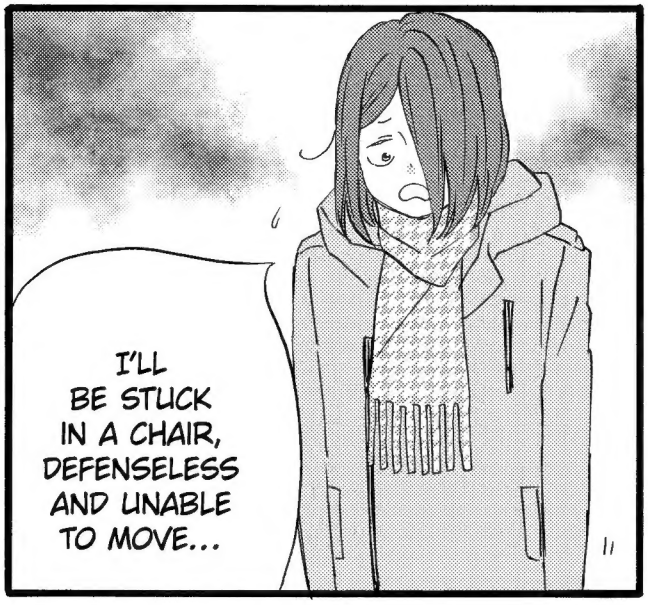

I FEEL LIKE CRYING...
THERE ARE STILL REMNANTS FROM THE TIME HE WAS NEGLECTED...
Sniffle...

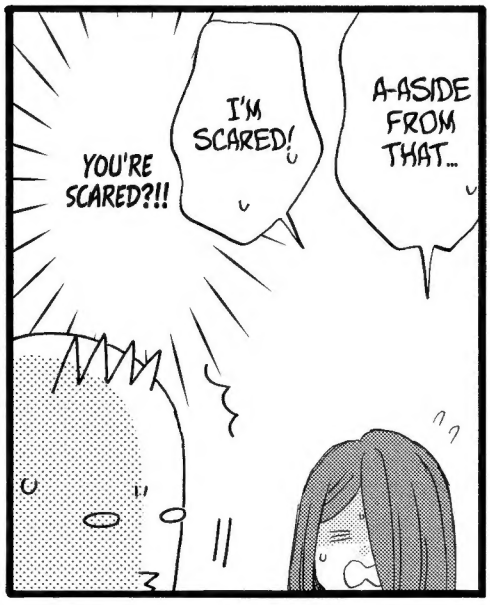
JUN-KUN, LET'S GO TO THE HAIRDRESSER TODAY...!!
Whaaat?!

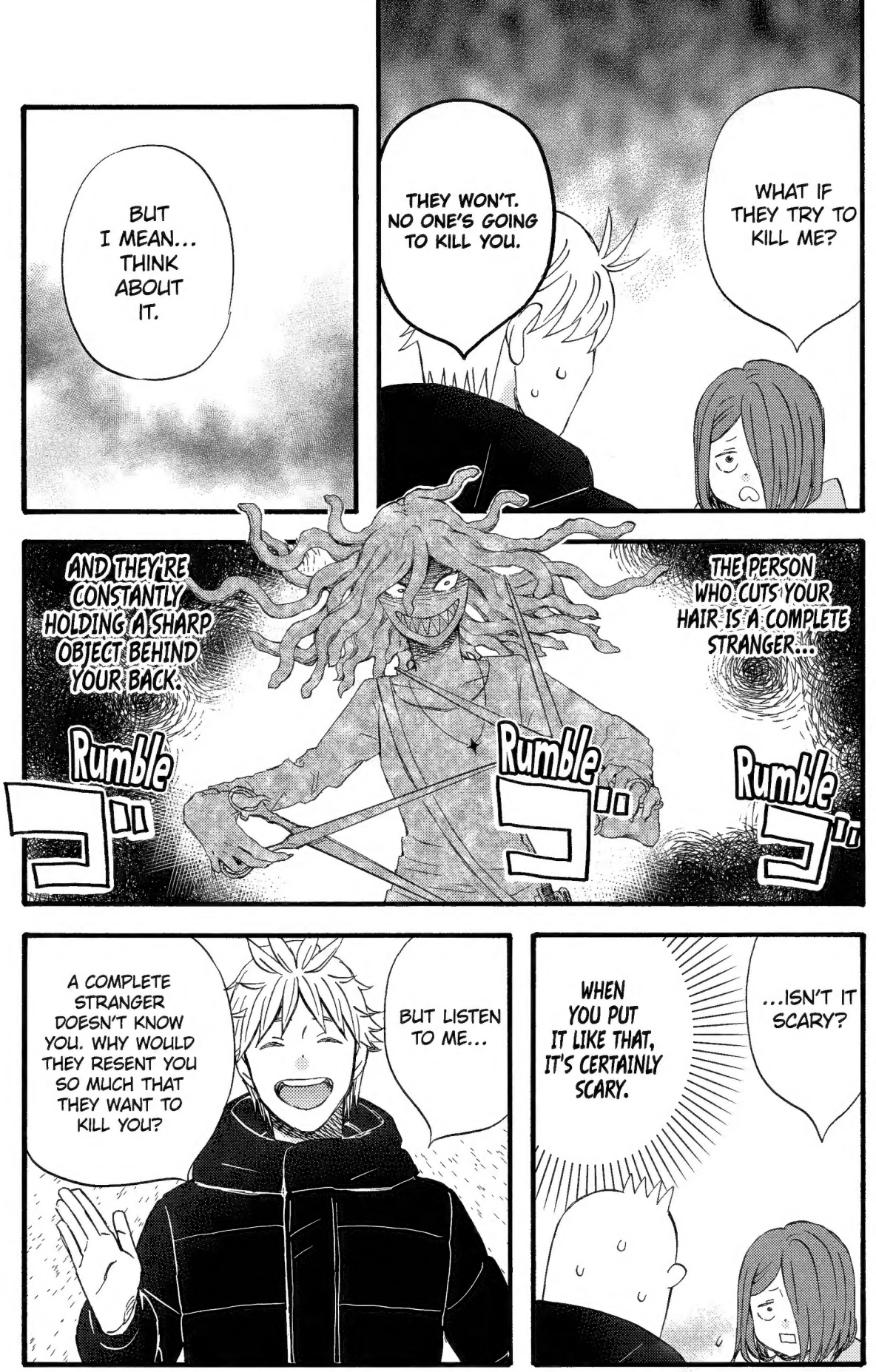

YOU CAN VISIT MOTHER LATER.
RIGHT.
HMM?
Nod

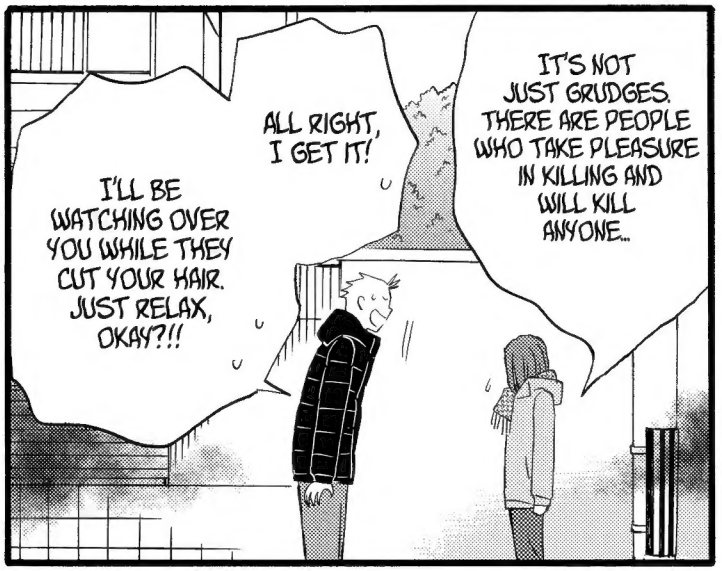
A SIMPLE BOY'S HAIRCUT ISN'T THAT EXPENSIVE!


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WE DON'T NEED TO. I'VE NEVER GONE TO ONE BEFORE...!
IT'S A WASTE OF MONEY.

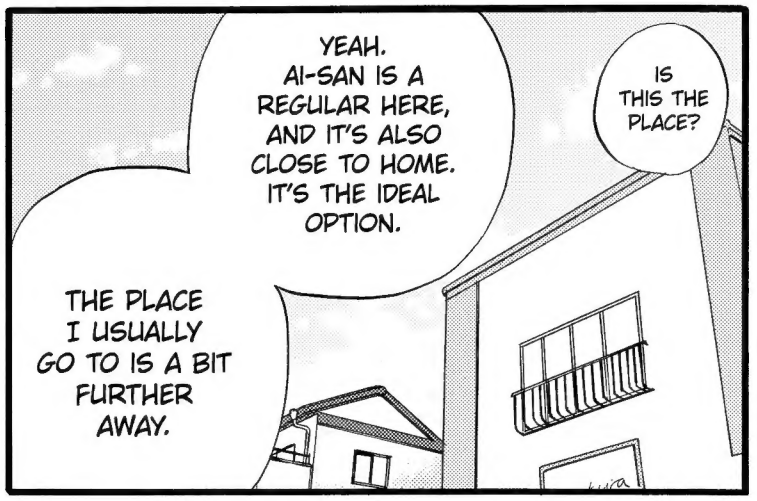

I'LL BE STUCK IN A CHAIR, DEFENSELESS AND UNABLE TO MOVE...


YOU'RE SCARED?!!
I'M SCARED!
A-ASIDE FROM THAT...


BUT I MEAN... THINK ABOUT IT.
THEY WON'T. NO ONE'S GOING TO KILL YOU.
WHAT IF THEY TRY TO KILL ME?
AND THEY'RE CONSTANTLY HOLDING A SHARP OBJECT BEHIND YOUR BACK.
THE PERSON WHO CUTS YOUR HAIR IS A COMPLETE STRANGER...
Rumble ゴ..
Rumble ゴ..
Rumble ゴ..
A COMPLETE STRANGER DOESN'T KNOW YOU. WHY WOULD THEY RESENT YOU SO MUCH THAT THEY WANT TO KILL YOU?
BUT LISTEN TO ME...
WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT, IT'S CERTAINLY SCARY.
...ISN'T IT SCARY?

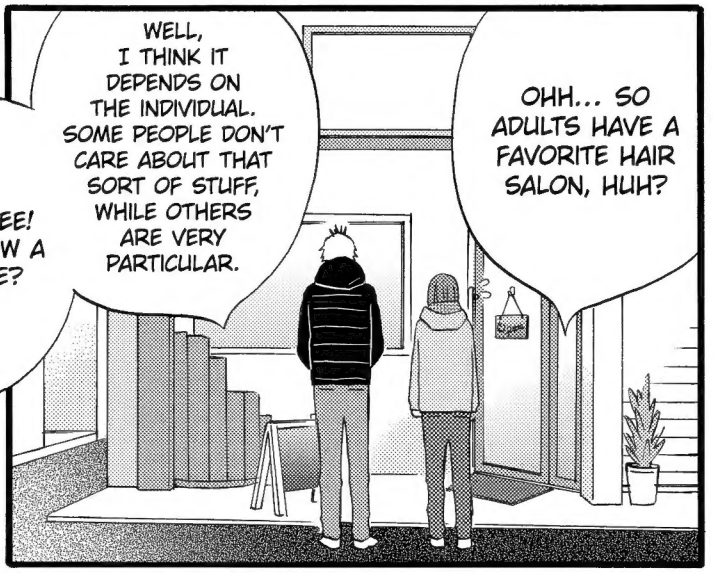

I'LL BE WATCHING OVER YOU WHILE THEY CUT YOUR HAIR. JUST RELAX, OKAY?!!
ALL RIGHT, I GET IT!
IT'S NOT JUST GRUDGES. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO TAKE PLEASURE IN KILLING AND WILL KILL ANYONE...

...
THERE'S NO REASON TO WORRY ABOUT SOMEONE HURTING YOU.


THE PLACE I USUALLY GO TO IS A BIT FURTHER AWAY.
YEAH. AI-SAN IS A REGULAR HERE, AND IT'S ALSO CLOSE TO HOME. IT'S THE IDEAL OPTION.
IS THIS THE PLACE?

OH, THEY'RE OPEN. I'M GLAD...
Open

Clang
Clang

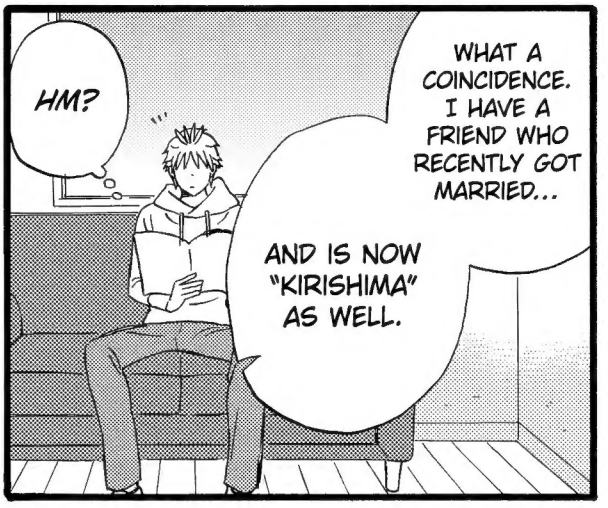

EXCUSE MEEE! IS RIGHT NOW A GOOD TIME?
WELL, I THINK IT DEPENDS ON THE INDIVIDUAL. SOME PEOPLE DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT SORT OF STUFF, WHILE OTHERS ARE VERY PARTICULAR.
OHH... SO ADULTS HAVE A FAVORITE HAIR SALON, HUH?

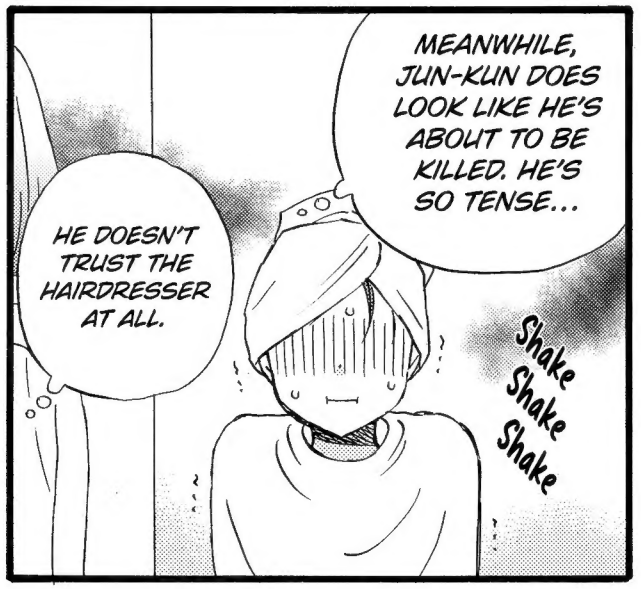
OH, OF COURSE! WELCOME!
Smile
Smile
THIS IS A VERY RESIDENTIAL AREA, SO...
BUT SHE LOOKS PRETTY YOUNG.
I THOUGHT THE HAIRDRESSER WOULD BE SOMEONE OLDER AND MORE EXPERIENCED...
I'M ONLY ACCOMPANYING HIM.
THIS KID NEEDS A HAIRCUT, PLEASE.
I SEE. OH, MY! YOU LET IT GROW SO LONG, IT MUST GET IN THE WAY.
IT'S WINTER, THOUGH. YOUR HEAD WILL PROBABLY FEEL COLD IF I CUT IT TOO SHORT.
HOW ABOUT NOT TOO LONG, NOT TOO SHORT?
O-OKAY...

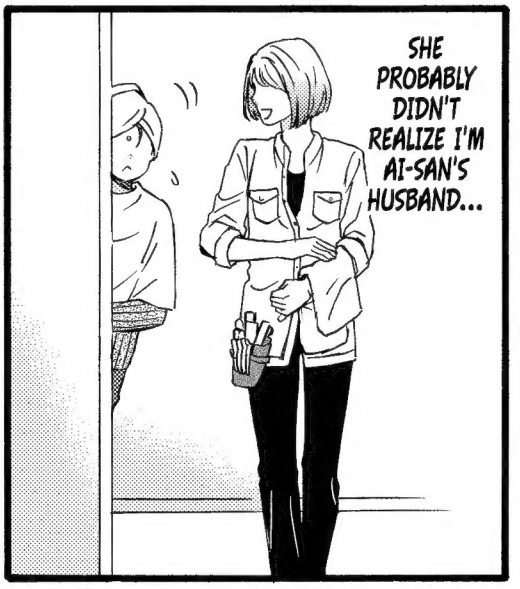
K-KIRISHIMA... IT'S KIRISHIMA JUN.
FWSHH...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME? DO YOU LIVE AROUND HERE?
OH, MY! KIRISHIMA?

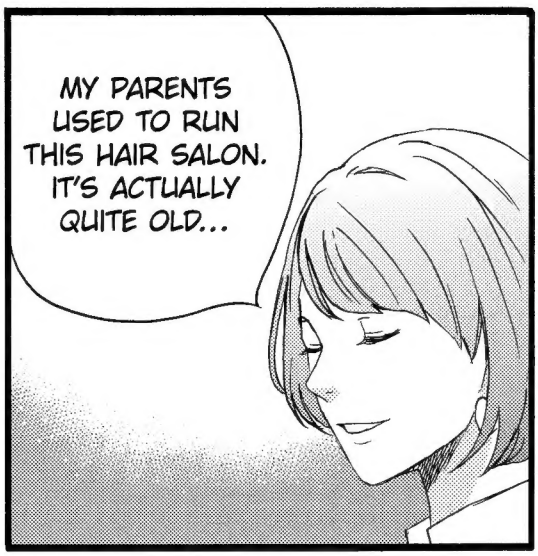
ALL RIGHT. I'M GOING TO APPLY THE SHAMPOO FIRST.

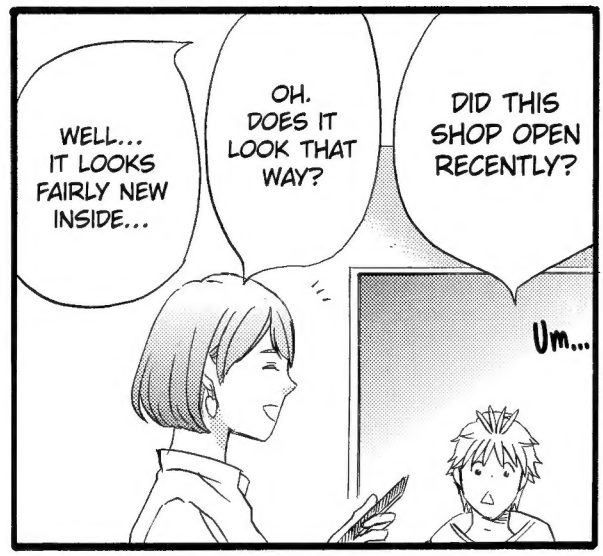
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THIS PERSON IS AI-SAN'S FRIEND.
AI-SAN IS A REGULAR CUSTOMER AT THIS HAIR SALON, RIGHT?

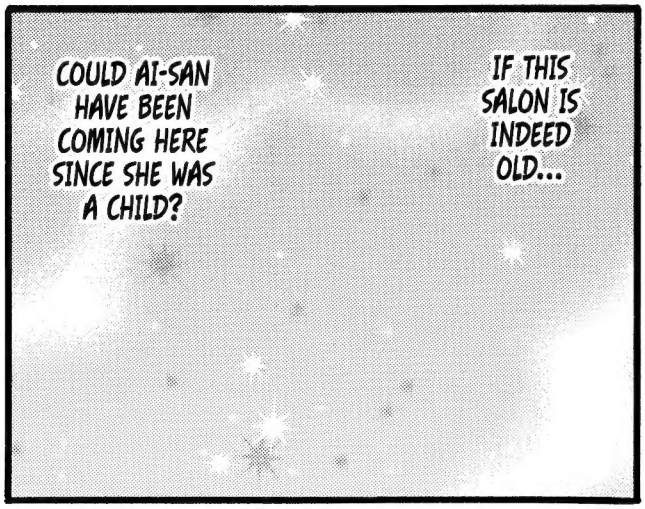

HM?
WHAT A COINCIDENCE. I HAVE A FRIEND WHO RECENTLY GOT MARRIED...
AND IS NOW "KIRISHIMA" AS WELL.

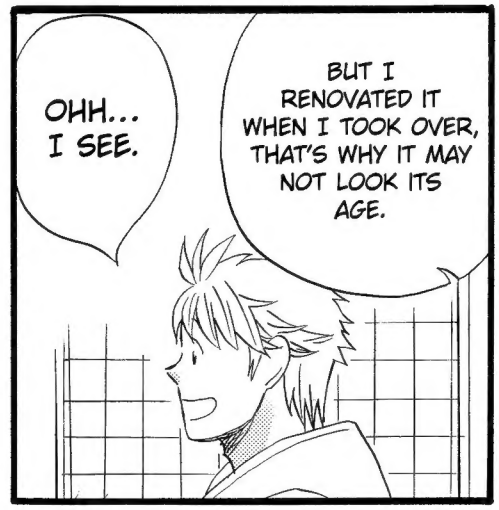

MEANWHILE, JUN-KUN DOES LOOK LIKE HE'S ABOUT TO BE KILLED. HE'S SO TENSE...
HE DOESN'T TRUST THE HAIRDRESSER AT ALL.
Shake Shake Shake


SHE PROBABLY DIDN'T REALIZE I'M AI-SAN'S HUSBAND...


MY PARENTS USED TO RUN THIS HAIR SALON. IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE OLD...

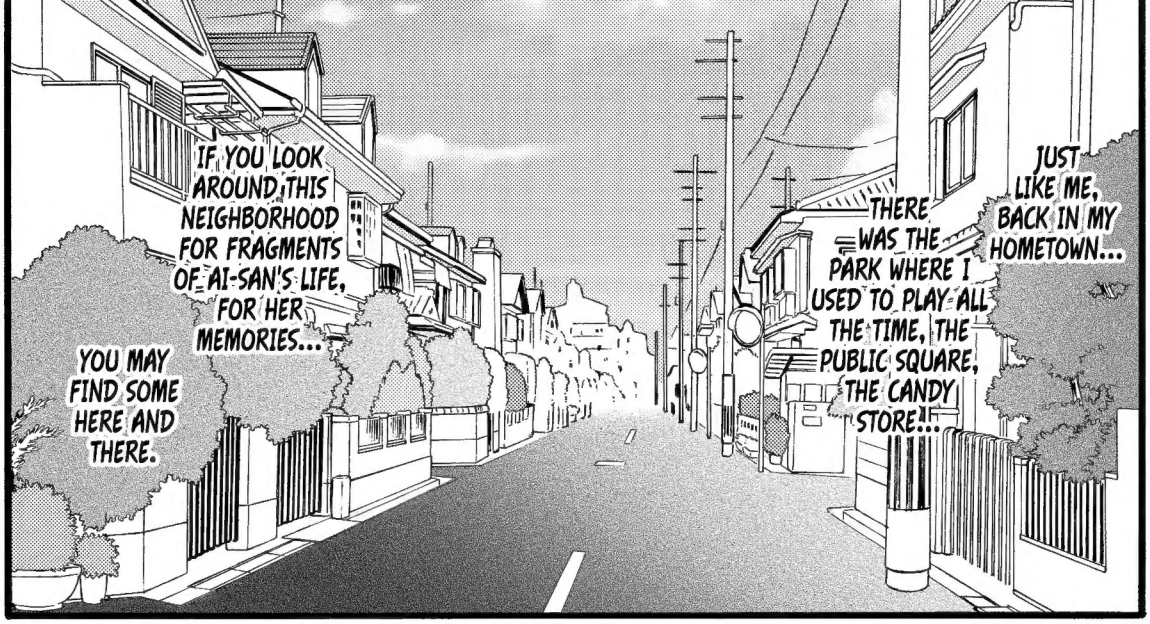

DID THIS SHOP OPEN RECENTLY?
Um...
OH. DOES IT LOOK THAT WAY?
WELL... IT LOOKS FAIRLY NEW INSIDE...

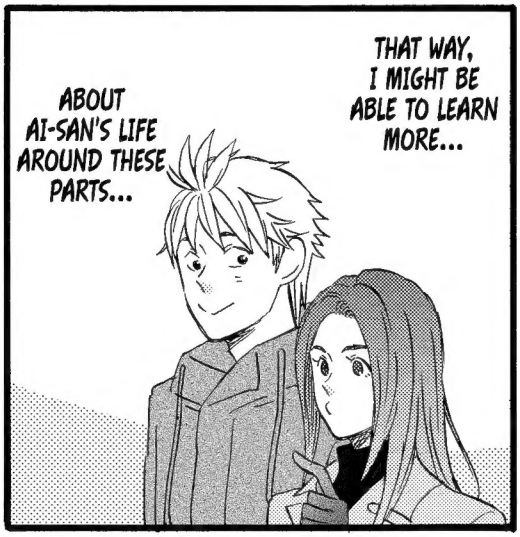

IF THIS SALON IS INDEED OLD...
COULD AI-SAN HAVE BEEN COMING HERE SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD?

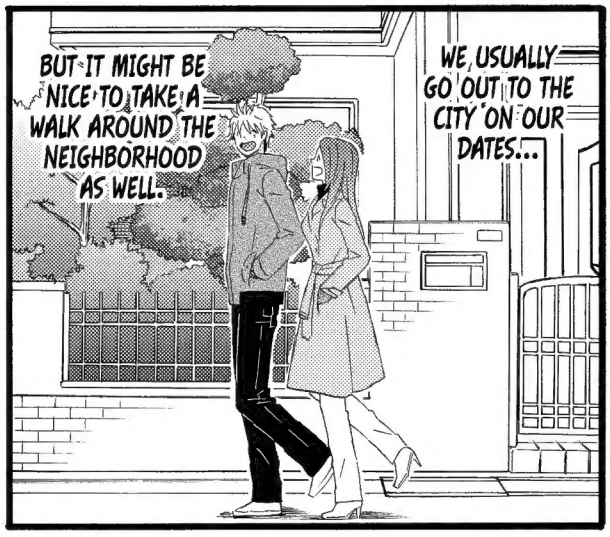

BUT I RENOVATED IT WHEN I TOOK OVER, THAT'S WHY IT MAY NOT LOOK ITS AGE.
OHH... I SEE.

AI-SAN SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN BORN AND RAISED AROUND THESE PARTS...
SO SHE MUST HAVE CREATED A CONNECTION TO PLACES LIKE THIS.

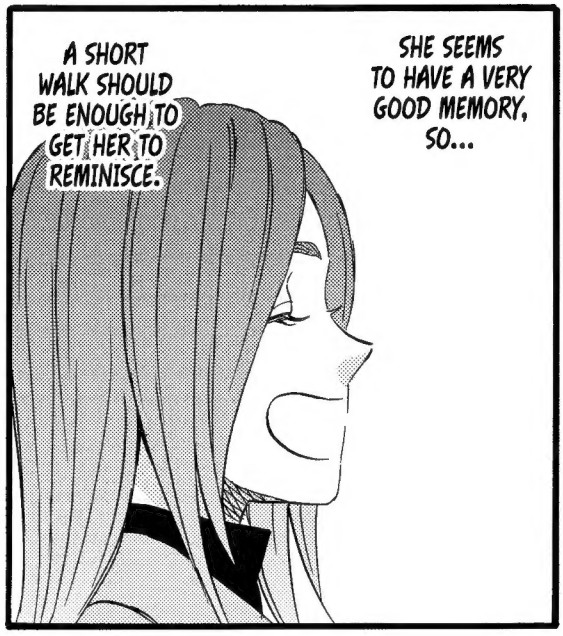
PERHAPS THIS PERSON'S PARENTS USED TO CUT HER HAIR?
Your hair is nice and strong...
...

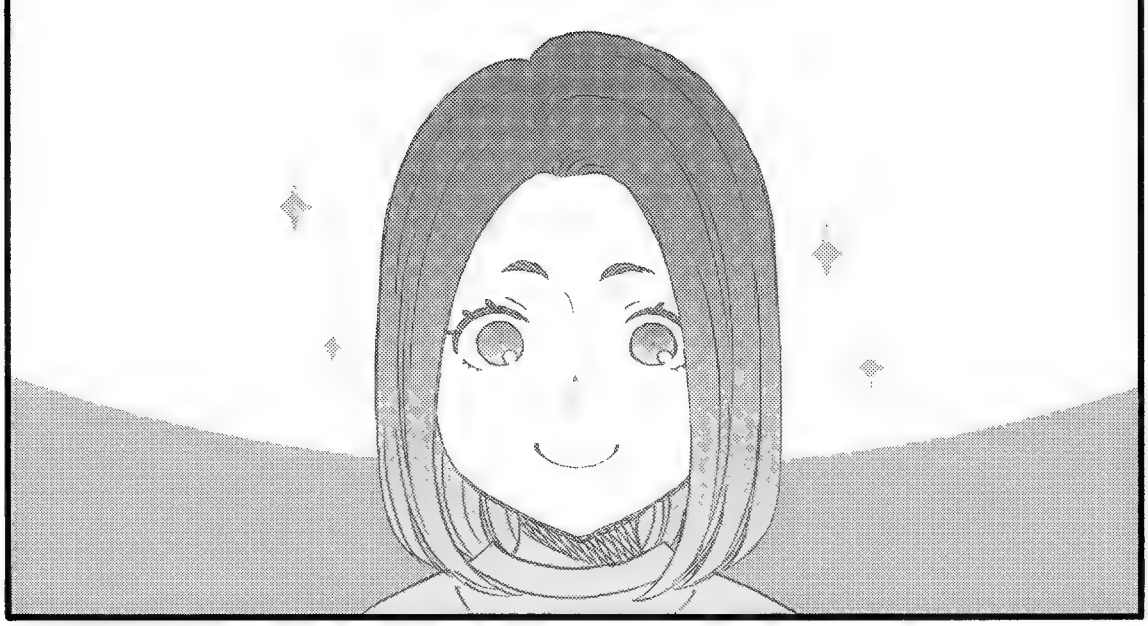

IF YOU LOOK AROUND THIS NEIGHBORHOOD FOR FRAGMENTS OF AI-SAN'S LIFE, FOR HER MEMORIES...
YOU MAY FIND SOME HERE AND THERE.
THERE WAS THE PARK WHERE I USED TO PLAY ALL THE TIME, THE PUBLIC SQUARE, THE CANDY STORE...
JUST LIKE ME, BACK IN MY HOMETOWN...

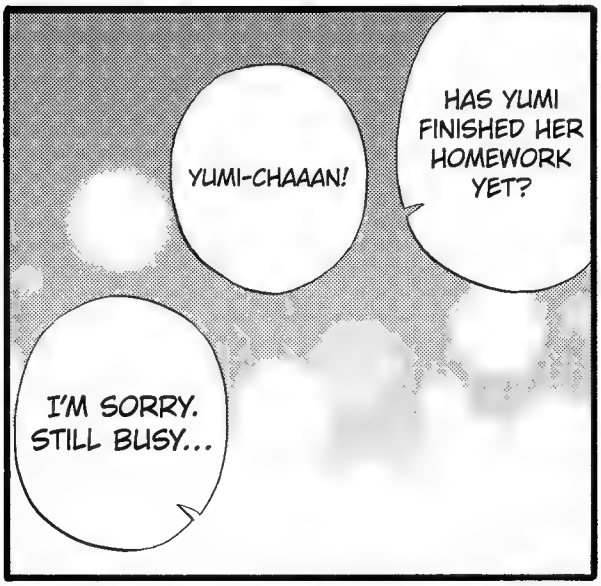

ABOUT AI-SAN'S LIFE AROUND THESE PARTS...
THAT WAY, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO LEARN MORE...


BUT IT MIGHT BE NICE TO TAKE A WALK AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD AS WELL.
WE USUALLY GO OUT TO THE CITY ON OUR DATES...

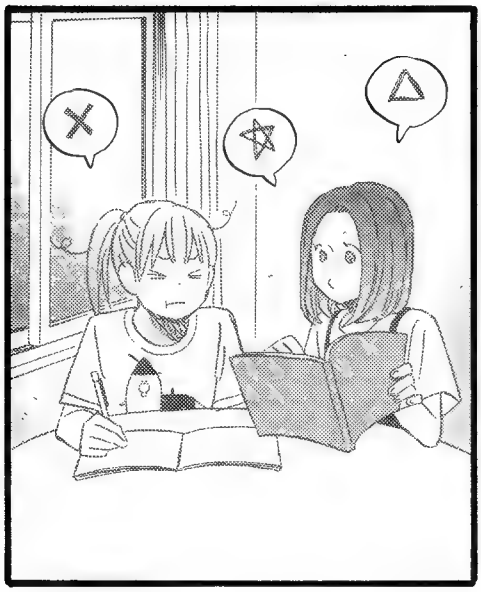
ALL RIGHT. IT'S DONE, AI-CHAN!

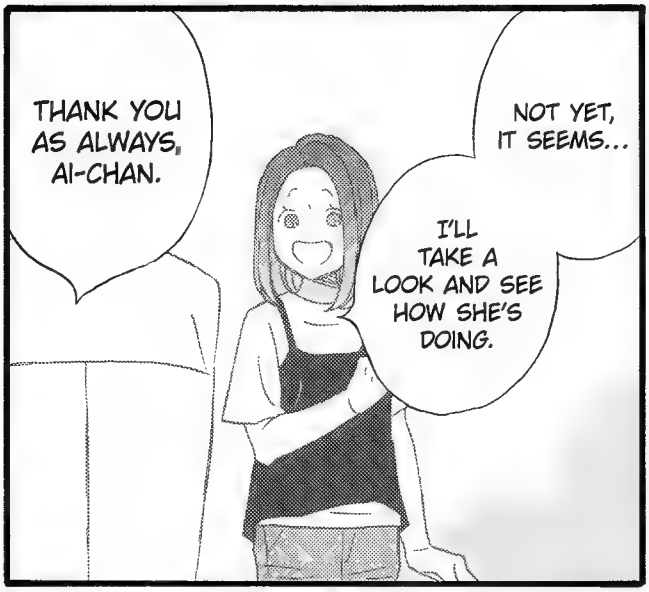

A SHORT WALK SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO GET HER TO REMINISCE.
SHE SEEMS TO HAVE A VERY GOOD MEMORY, SO...

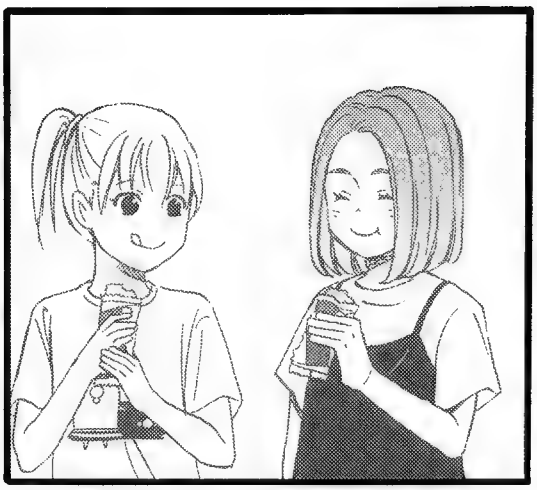



HAS YUMI FINISHED HER HOMEWORK YET?
YUMI-CHAAAN!
I'M SORRY. STILL BUSY...

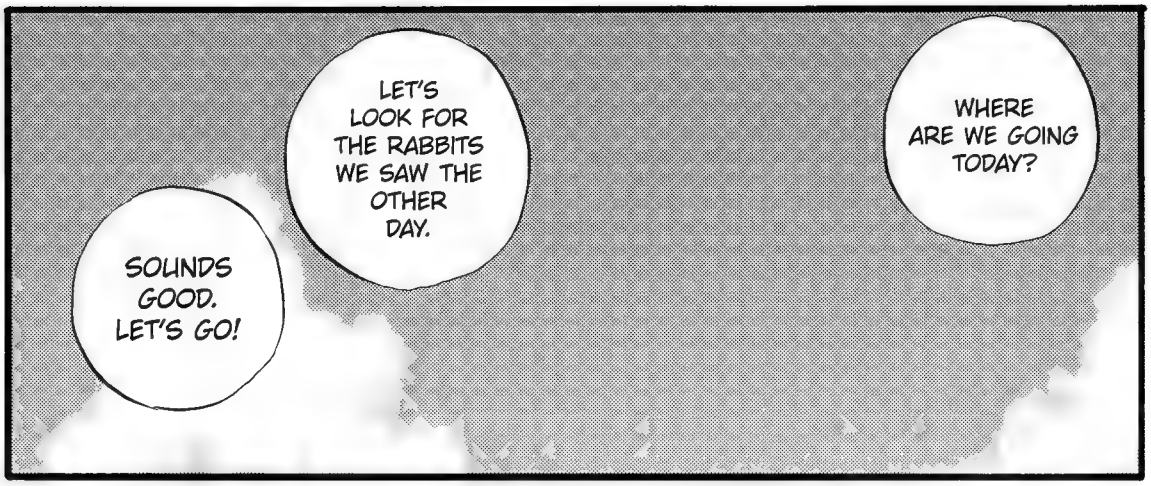
THANKS, MISTER.
HA HA HA! YOU'RE WELCOME.

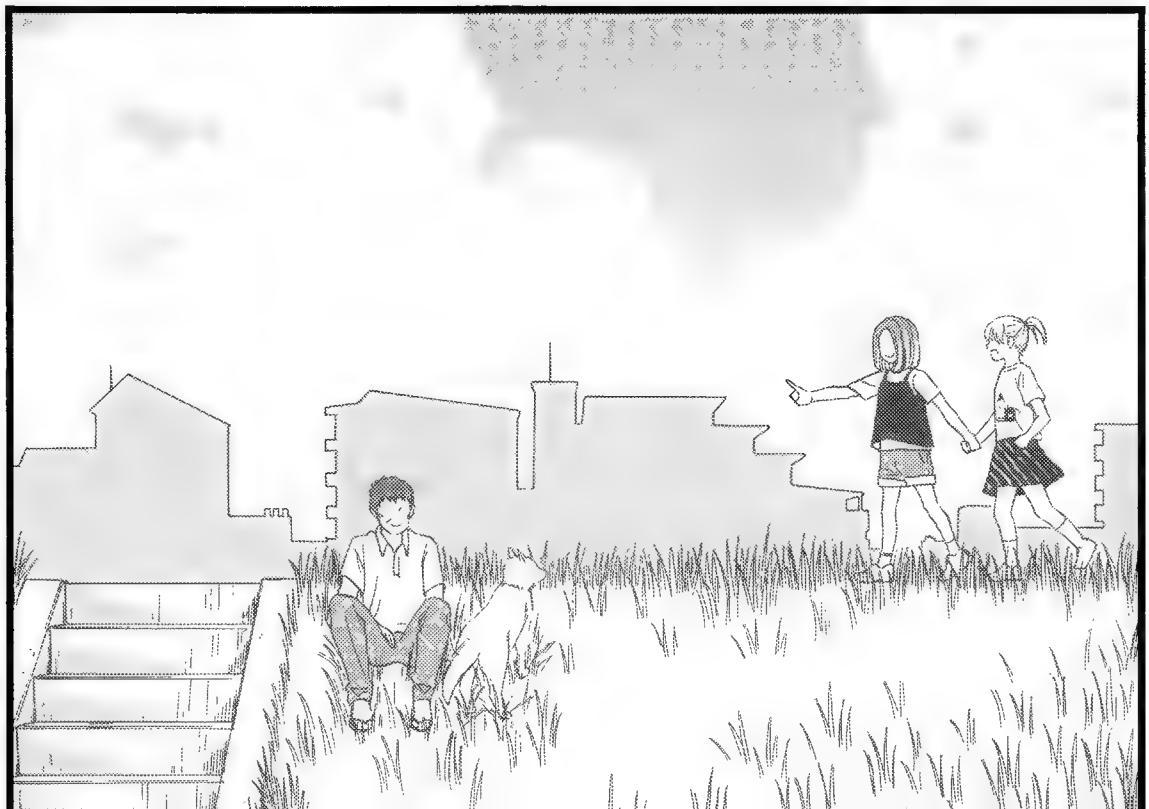


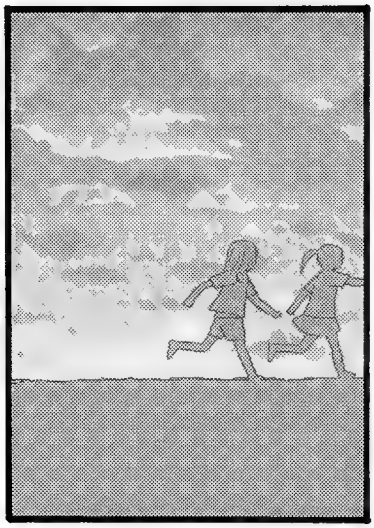

NOT YET, IT SEEMS...
THANK YOU AS ALWAYS, AI-CHAN.
I'LL TAKE A LOOK AND SEE HOW SHE'S DOING.

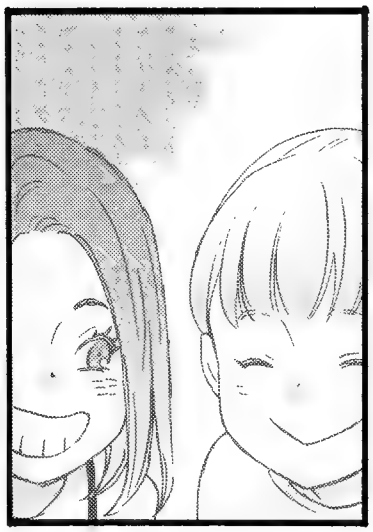


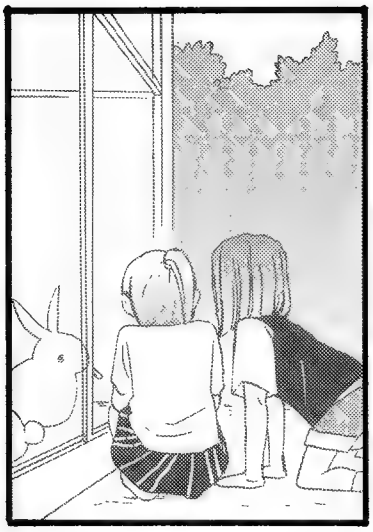
THANKS.
HERE. HAVE SOME SWEETS.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
BIKKURI
CANDY

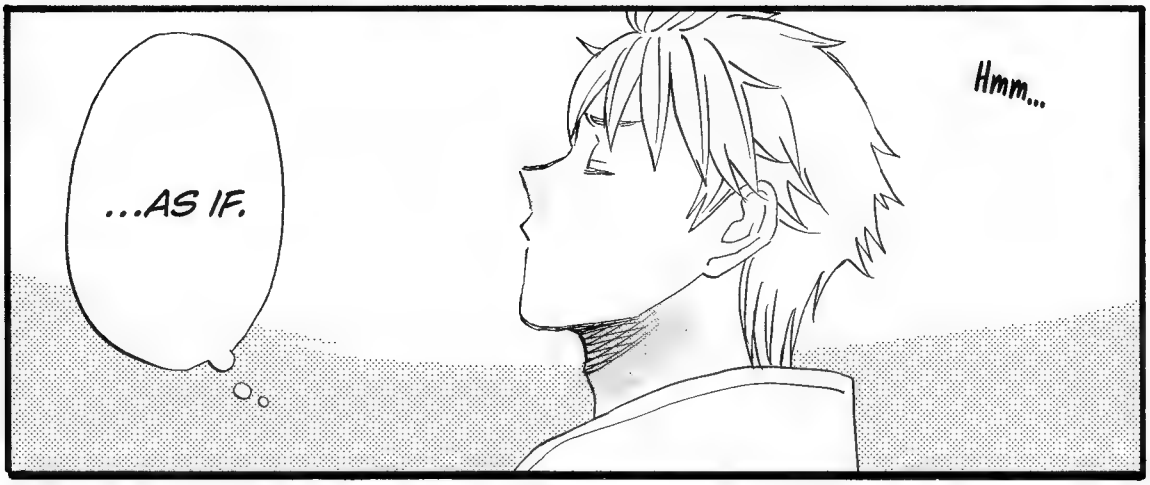

LET'S LOOK FOR THE RABBITS WE SAW THE OTHER DAY.
WHERE ARE WE GOING TODAY?
SOUNDS GOOD. LET'S GO!



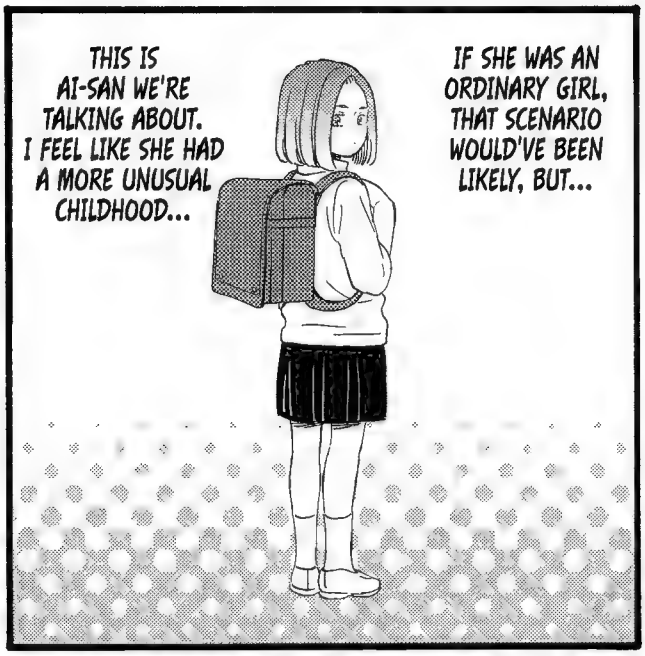







Hmm...
...AS IF.

ALL RIGHT. IT'S DONE!
OH!


THIS IS AI-SAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. I FEEL LIKE SHE HAD A MORE UNUSUAL CHILDHOOD...
IF SHE WAS AN ORDINARY GIRL, THAT SCENARIO WOULD'VE BEEN LIKELY, BUT...

OHH! WHAT A REFRESHING LOOK!
...

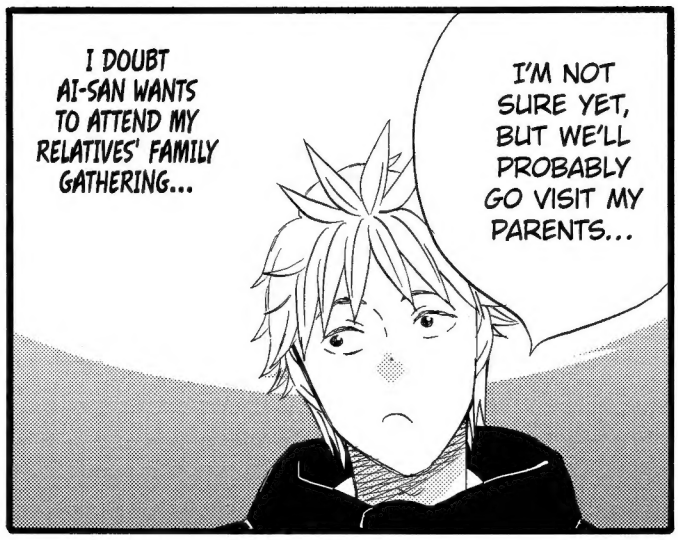
PLEASE COME AGAIN!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...!

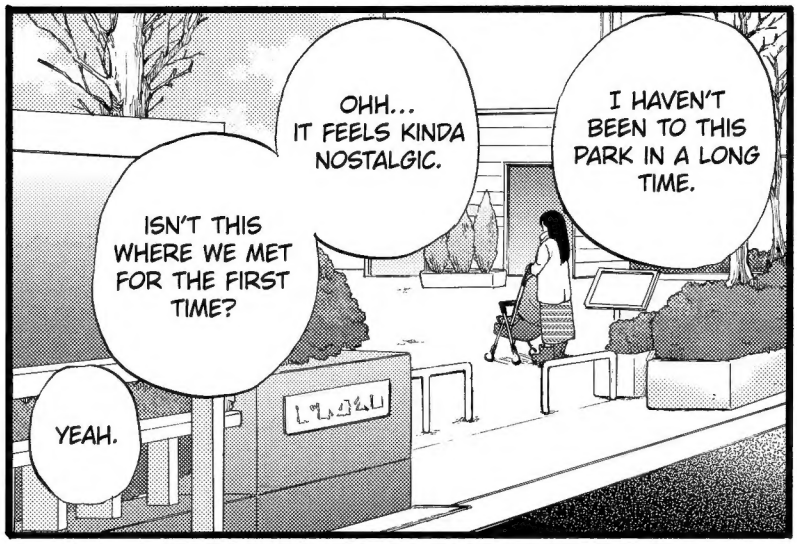
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
UM... THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THIS HAIRCUT FEELS VERY NICE.
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT.

THIS YEAR IS ALMOST ENDING...
RIGHT...
HOW DO YOU USUALLY SPEND THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS?
HMM? WELL, IT'S USUALLY PRETTY RELAXED.

Of course not.
She didn't kill me...

I STILL HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO PROPERLY INTRODUCE JUN-KUN...
I hope I can introduce myself well...

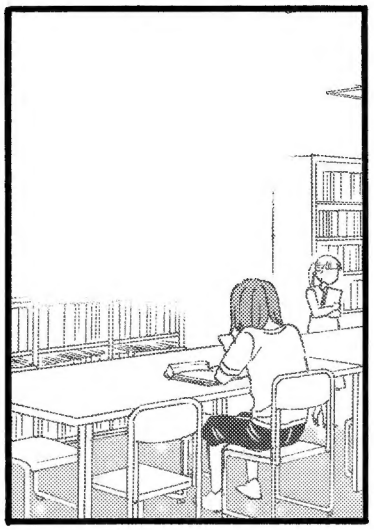

I DOUBT AI-SAN WANTS TO ATTEND MY RELATIVES' FAMILY GATHERING...
I'M NOT SURE YET, BUT WE'LL PROBABLY GO VISIT MY PARENTS...

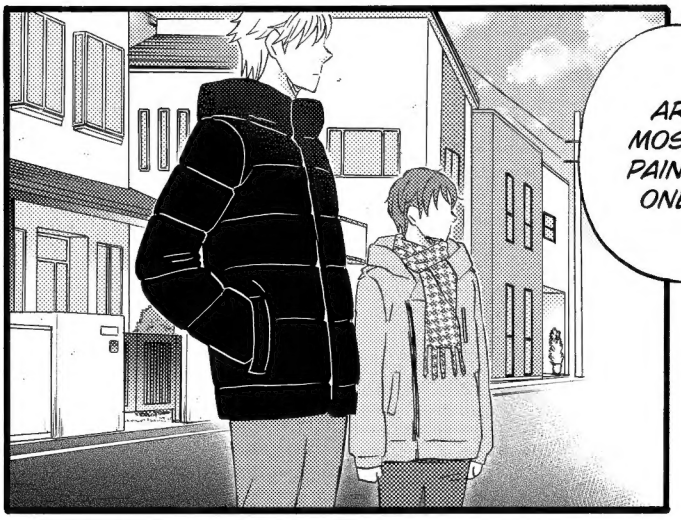

OHH... IT FEELS KINDA NOSTALGIC.
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THIS PARK IN A LONG TIME.
ISN'T THIS WHERE WE MET FOR THE FIRST TIME?
YEAH.

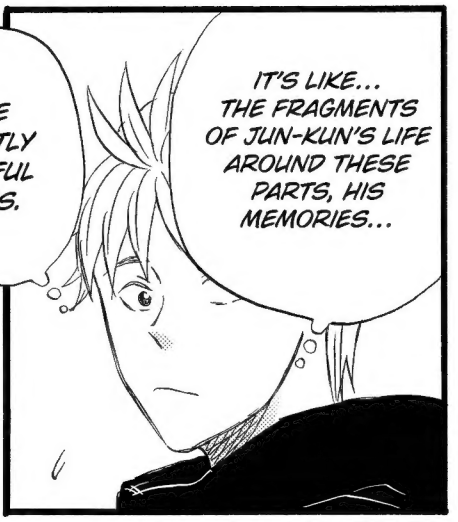
HM?
OH!

I KNOW QUITE A BIT ABOUT THE PARKS AROUND HERE...

I HAD NOWHERE TO GO, SO I JUST WANDERED AROUND...




ARE MOSTLY PAINFUL ONES.


IT'S LIKE... THE FRAGMENTS OF JUN-KUN'S LIFE AROUND THESE PARTS, HIS MEMORIES...

...JUN-KUN.
THAT HAIRCUT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.

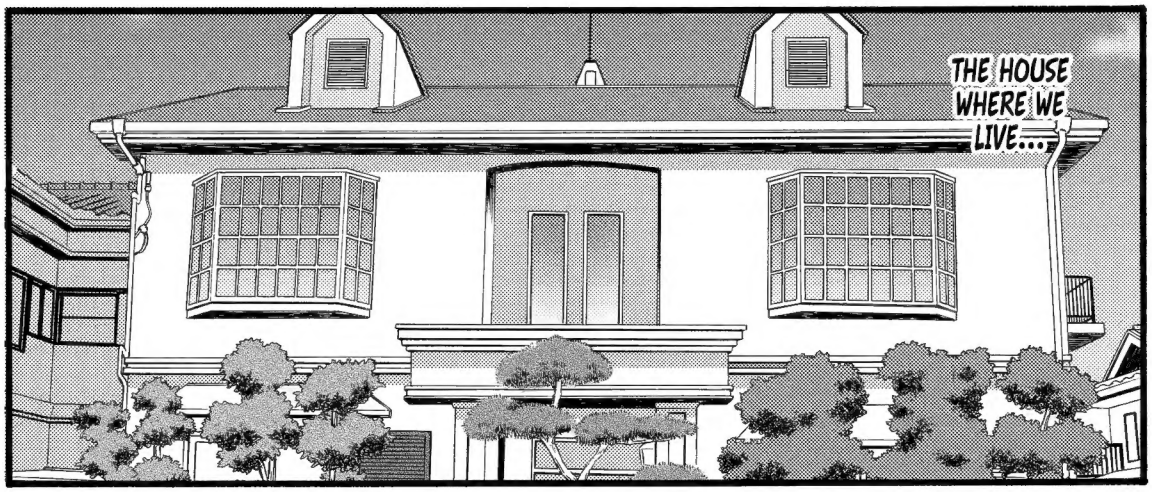
THANK YOU! ONCE IT GROWS BACK, LET'S GO TO THAT SHOP AGAIN!

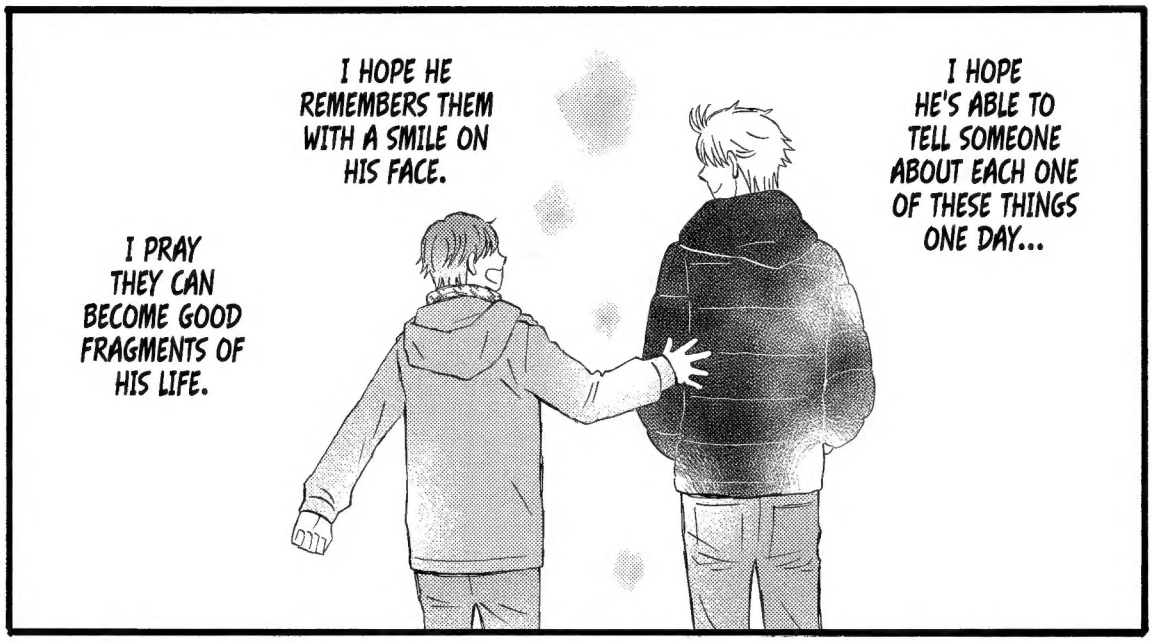
I WONDER HOW MANY TIMES I'LL HAVE TO GO THERE BEFORE I BECOME A REGULAR...

IT WOULD BE GREAT...

IF THAT HAIR SALON COULD BECOME A HAPPY LITTLE FRAGMENT OF JUN-KUN'S LIFE.

THE HOSPITAL WHERE AI-SAN WORKS...
THE SUPERMARKET WHERE WE USUALLY DO OUR SHOPPING...
THE PATH WE TAKE ON OUR WAY BACK HOME...
LITE
LITE


THE HOUSE WHERE WE LIVE...


I HOPE HE REMEMBERS THEM WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE.
I HOPE HE'S ABLE TO TELL SOMEONE ABOUT EACH ONE OF THESE THINGS ONE DAY...
I PRAY THEY CAN BECOME GOOD FRAGMENTS OF HIS LIFE.